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ASSASSIN'S —CREED— REFLECTIONS





MARCH 2017

MEMORY
EZIO

ASSASSIN'S CREED

REFLECTIONS

MEMORY 1

SEARCHING FOR RELEVANT MEMORY DATA...



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Master Templar **Juhani Otso Berg** faces a dilemma...

Loyal to the Order, but sensing growing dissent from within, the former special-ops tactician has recently adopted the mantle of **The Black Cross** in order to effectively root out treachery from the shadows.

Aware of his Order's limitations — along with the strengths of his enemies — Berg has begun to search

the past for alternative methods of implementing the Templar doctrine.

Utilizing Abstergo's immense resources (and a certain genetic profile) to dig into the annals of the Assassin Brotherhood, Berg hopes to discover new insights and information from the exploits of his adversaries.

For as it has been often said, the only way to truly know one's enemy is to become him...



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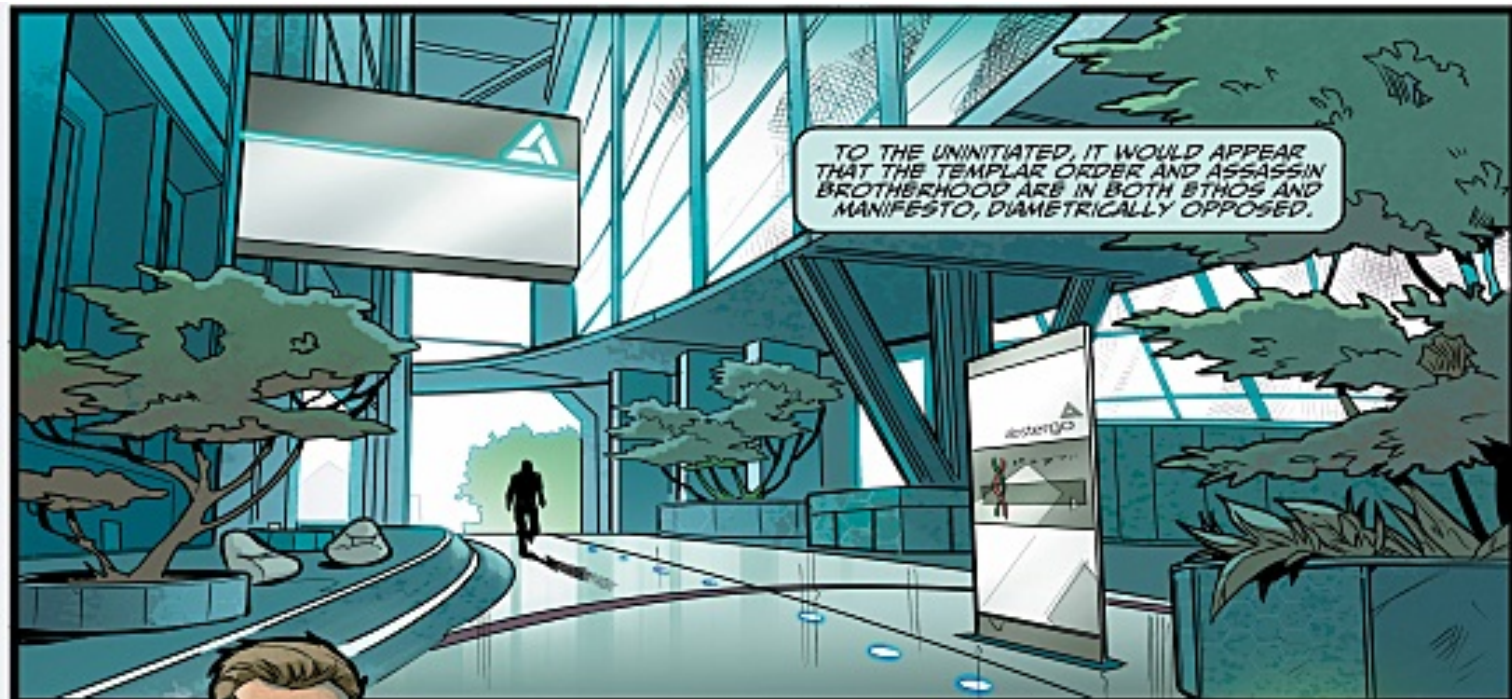
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TO THE UNINITIATED, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE TEMPLAR ORDER AND ASSASSIN BROTHERHOOD ARE IN BOTH ETHOS AND MANIFESTO, DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED.



AND IT IS TRUE, UP TO A POINT.



YET IT IS A FOOL WHO DOES NOT LEARN FROM HIS ENEMY.

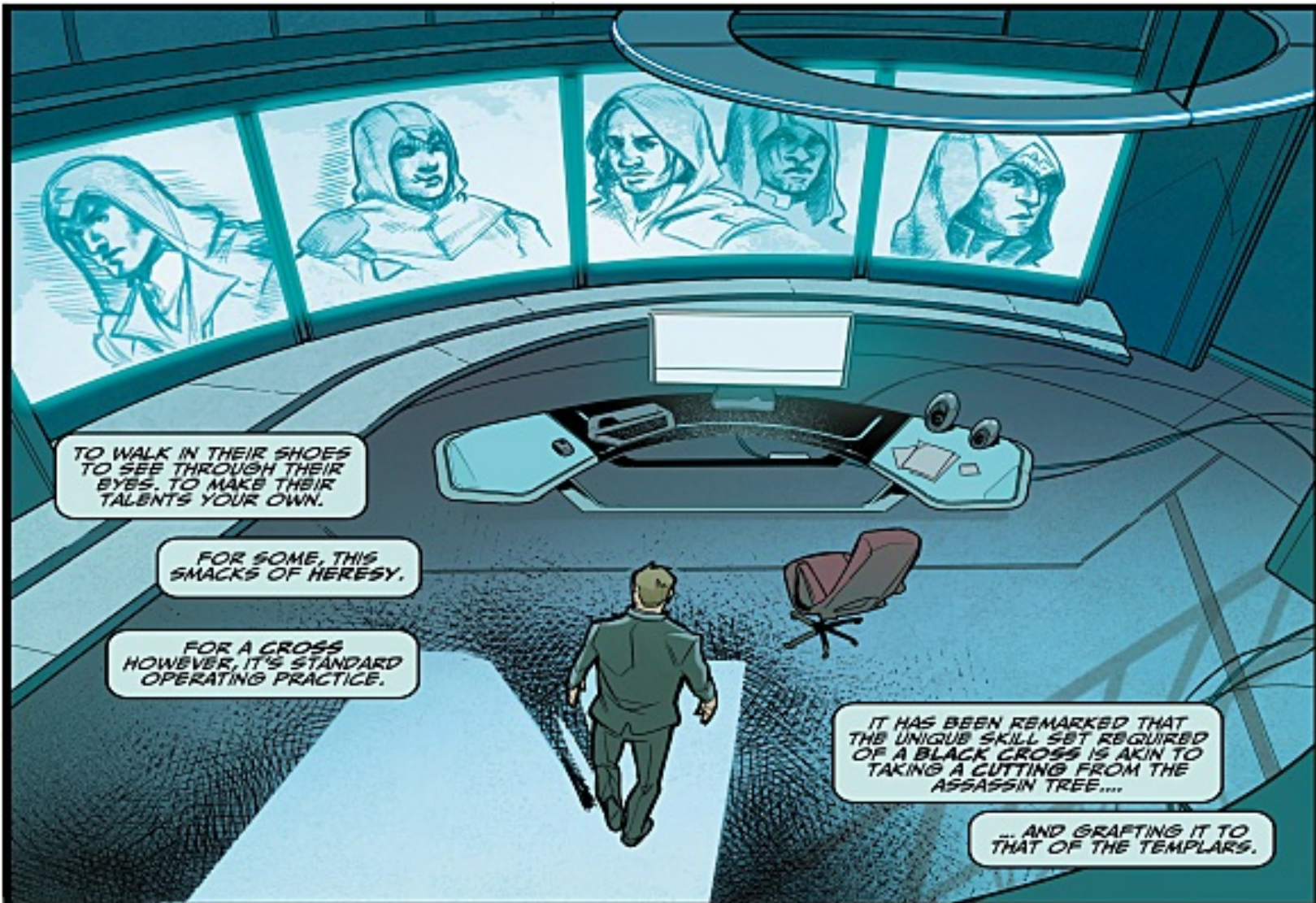


BERG, JUHANI. OTSO CONFIRMED.

TO KNOW YOUR ENEMY, YOU MUST BECOME YOUR ENEMY.



TO SEE YOURSELF AS THEY SEE YOU, YOUR WEAKNESSES AND STRENGTHS.



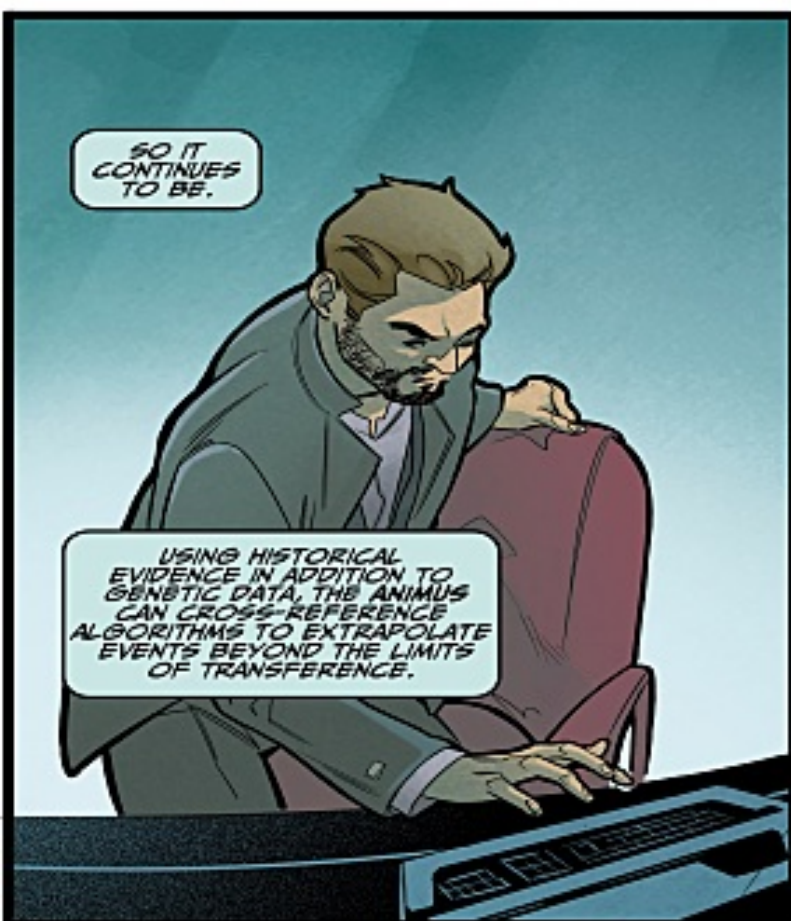
TO WALK IN THEIR SHOES
TO SEE THROUGH THEIR
EYES. TO MAKE THEIR
TALENTS YOUR OWN.

FOR SOME, THIS
SMACKS OF HERESY.

FOR A CROSS
HOWEVER, IT'S STANDARD
OPERATING PRACTICE.

IT HAS BEEN REMARKED THAT
THE UNIQUE SKILL SET REQUIRED
OF A BLACK CROSS IS AKIN TO
TAKING A CUTTING FROM THE
ASSASSIN TREE....

... AND GRAFTING IT TO
THAT OF THE TEMPLARS.



SO IT
CONTINUES
TO BE.

USING HISTORICAL
EVIDENCE IN ADDITION TO
GENETIC DATA, THE ANIMUS
CAN CROSS-REFERENCE
ALGORITHMS TO EXTRAPOLATE
EVENTS BEYOND THE LIMITS
OF TRANSFERENCE.



THE POTENTIAL IS MOSTLY
IGNORED BY THE ORDER,
WHO CHOOSE TO FOCUS ON
ONLY THE MOST DEFINING --
OR REMARKABLE -- MOMENTS
OF AN ANCESTOR'S LIFE.

BUT FOR A CROSS,
IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY
TO LOOK FOR PATTERNS,
INTERWEAVINGS, THAT
MAY HAVE PREVIOUSLY
GONE UNNOTICED.

AND IF WE ARE TO LEARN
FROM OUR ENEMIES...

... LET IT BE FROM
THE GREATS.

AMBOISE,
FRANCE,
1519.

Ezio Auditore:
Final data reconstruction
Est. accuracy 78.5%

MAESTRO...









BETTER?

YES,
THANK
YOU.

I AM NOT
LONG FOR THIS
WORLD. A SHADOW
FALLS UPON ME, BUT
LET US NOT DWELL
ON THAT. LET US
JUST TALK, AS OLD
FRIENDS DO.



TELL ME
SOMETHING I
HAVE NOT HEARD
BEFORE.

TELL ME A
SECRET.



VERY WELL.



THAT
PAINTING OF
YOURS - THE
WOMAN WITH
THE CHESTNUT
HAIR?

SI, LA
GIOCONDA.
WHAT OF
IT?

YOUR
MODEL, LA
MONNA LISA, I
HAD... WE SHARED
A KINSHIP SOME
TIME AGO, BEFORE
SHE POSED
FOR YOU




YOU
AND LISA?
NOW THIS IS
WORTH LIVING
FOR! TELL ME
MORE!

VERY WELL.
IT WAS JUST
OUTSIDE FIRENZE,
THE SPRING OF
1504....



"WITH THE FLORENTINE BROTHERHOOD STILL IN TATTERS, I REQUIRED URGENT HELP WITH EQUIPMENT REPAIRS TO ALLOW ME TO ARM OUR NEWEST RECRUITS...

"... BUT MY RETURN TO LA CITTA DI GIGLI HAD NOT GONE UNNOTICED...




"IT WAS JUST ONE OF MANY BOUTS OF BLOODLETTING THAT HAVE PUNCTUATED MY LIFE.



REQUIESCAT IN PACE.

"A PARADE OF AGGRESSO SCONOSCIUTI WHOSE SOLE DESTINY IT SEEMS WAS TO DIE UPON MY STEEL.



"THIS DAY WAS NO DIFFERENT.



"OUTNUMBERED. CIRCONDATO. THEY IMAGINED THEY HAD UN VANTAGGIO.



"THEY WERE
MISTAKEN."



"AND SO
WAS I."



"THE HARD
RAIN SMOTHERED
EVERY SOUND."



"EVEN THE
SCREAMS OF
THE DEAD AND
THE DYING."



"FOOLISHLY,
I GAVE IT ONLY
A PASSING
THOUGHT."

"IT WAS TO
COST ME."

"ONE VISCIDO
BASTARDO CLUNG
TENACIOUSLY TO
LIFE. MORE SO
THAN EVEN YOU.

GHH!

"I FELL PRAY TO
HIS BLADE AND MY
COMPIACIMENTO.

"IT WAS NOT DEEP
AS A WELL, NOR
WIDE AS A CHURCH
DOOR BUT IT
DID SUFFICE.

"I FELT THE LIGHT
AND LIFE LEECH
OUT OF ME AND
ALL CAME TO
DARKNESS.

"BUT IT WAS NOT THE END."

KEEP STILL! PER CARITÀ YOU'LL TEAR YOUR STITCHES AGAIN!

UHH!

WHY... WHY AM I BOUND?

BECAUSE YOU WOULD NOT KEEP STILL. YOU WERE DREAMING LIKE A MASTINO DE CACCIA. LEGS AND ARMS THRASHING...

I HAD TO BIND YOU FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.

THEN CLEARLY I AM IN YOUR DEBT. THANK YOU.

AND THESE ARE FINE KNOTS. YOU KNOW YOUR CRAFT.

I WAS RAISED ON A FARM — THIS ONE ACTUALLY. I KNOW HOW TO RESTRAIN ANIMALS.

OH, THAT'S NOT TO SAY... I... I DIDN'T MEAN THAT YOU--



CAPISCO, MIA SIGNORA. I AM NOT OFFENDED, TRUST ME, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO BE UNTIED IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU?



CAN I TRUST YOU THOUGH? DO I HAVE YOUR WORD YOU WILL NOT TRY TO HARM ME?

YOU HAVE IT, UPON MY HONOR.



VERY WELL...

PRAY DO NOT MAKE A FOOL OF ME OR A LIAR OF YOU.



SLOWLY NOW. TAKE YOUR TIME. YOU HAVE BEEN UNCONCIOUS FOR DAYS.

DO YOU HAVE A NAME?

NNH!



I AM EZIO, EZIO AUDITORE DA FIRENZE. AND YOURS?

I... I AM THE SIGNORA DEL GIOCONDO. LISA... TO MY FRIENDS.



THIS IS MY FATHER'S LAND. MY... HUSBAND AND I ARE VISITING. I WAS OUT RIDING WHEN I FOUND YOU... AND THE OTHERS.

DID YOU KILL THEM ALL?

SI.



DID THEY DESERVE IT?

SI.

I TAKE IT, SINCE I AM THE LIVESTOCK'S HOUSEGUEST, YOUR HUSBAND DOES NOT KNOW I AM HERE?



NO. HE... I AM HIS THIRD WIFE. HE IS A GOOD MAN BUT OLDER AND SET IN HIS WAYS.

HE WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND. HE WOULD HAVE TURNED YOU OVER TO LE AUTORITA.

SO WHY DIDN'T YOU?



WHEN I WAS A CHILD HERE, I FOUND A FOX CAUGHT IN A SNARE. I KNEW IT HAD BEEN KILLING MY FATHER'S HENS BUT I COULD NOT SEE IT SUFFER.

SO I FREED IT. IF IT WAS TO DIE, I WANTED IT TO HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE.



THEN I AM YOUR FOX?

HAH! YOU SILVER-TONGUED DEVIL, YOU COULD CHARM THE BIRDS FROM THE TREES.

TRUE, IT WAS PRETENCE AT FIRST. SELF-PRESERVATION.

"BUT THE DAYS WE SPENT TOGETHER, IT GREW TO BE SOMETHING... MORE."

"I DISCOVERED THAT BEYOND HER BEAUTY, SHE WAS A WOMAN OF UNCOMMON STRENGTH AND INTELLECT."

"BY HIDING ME, SHE SHOWED MORE COURAGE THAN MOST MEN I HAVE KNOWN."

"AND A KINDNESS TO MATCH."

"WE BOTH KNEW MUCH OF LOSS... AND OF LONGING..."

"BUT AS WITH MUCH IN THIS WORLD... IT WAS NOT TO BE..."

"I COULD FEEL HER HEART SOFTENING TOWARDS ME... BUT I WAS MINDFUL THAT SHE WAS WEDDED TO ANOTHER... THE MOTHER TO HIS CHILDREN."

"YET, SHE WAS NO BAUBLE
TO BE DRAPED UPON HIS
ARM. SHE HAD A MIND AND A
WILL OF HER OWN THAT HE
CLEARLY ADMIRERD AND
RESPECTED."

"IN ANOTHER
TIME, ANOTHER LIFE,
THINGS BETWEEN US
MIGHT HAVE BEEN
DIFFERENT..."

"BUT THE
BROTHERHOOD,
MY FAMILY... ROMA
NEEDED ME."

"I DID NOT HAVE
TO EXPLAIN. SHE
KNEW I COULD
NOT STAY."

"I HAVE ENDURED
MUCH PAIN IN MY
LIFE, BUT NONE QUITE
SO BITTERSWEET AS
THAT MOMENT."

"SHE DID
WHAT WAS RIGHT,
NO MATTER HOW
IT PAINED HER. YOU
WERE HER FOX."

"AND A WILD THING
MUST RUN FREE."



"HE SENT
HIS BEST
MEN."



"MURDERERS,
MERCENARI CULLED
FROM EVERY CORNER
OF CREATION."



"THEIRS WAS
A PROFESSION
OF VIOLENCE."



"LIVES STEEPED
DI SCRONTI E
MASSACRI."



"BUT THERE IS MORE
TO MURDER THAN SIMPLY
TAKING A LIFE..."



"THERE IS
ART IN ITS
EXECUTION."



"A HARMONIOUS
DEXTERITY OF
HAND AND EYE."



THINK

"EVERY SWEEP
AND STROKE A
KILLING LINE."



"THEY DID NOT
UNDERSTAND THIS.
TO THEM IT WAS A
PERFUNCTORY ACT.
A MEANS TO AN END."



"THERE WAS
NO CRAFT TO
THEIR KILLING."



"OUR
COMBAT WAS AN
EDUCATION."



"AND THE LAST
LESSON THEY
WOULD EVER
LEARN."



"I CONTEMPLATED
LEAVING ONE, AS
UN AVVERTIMENTO."



"BUT I KNEW THE
HOLY FATHER WOULD
NOT SEE IT AS SUCH."

"HE WOULD
CONSIDER IT UNA
PROVOCAZIONE."



"TO KEEP THEM OFF
YOUR BACK I WANTED
TO SEND A MESSAGE
THEY WOULD ALL
UNDERSTAND..."









IT SEEMS THE ASSASSINS
ARE NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM
THE TEMPLARS IN PRIZING
LOYALTY, LOVE AND COMPASSION
IN THOSE CLOSEST TO THEM.

AND THAT
KNOWLEDGE MAKES
THEM EASIER TO
INFILTRATE, BETRAY
AND KILL.

LOVE MAKES US WEAK.
I RECALL ANOTHER OF
THEIR MASTER ASSASSINS
ONCE SAID AS MUCH.

BUT IT SEEMS
THEIR FLORENTINE
MENTOR HAD FEW
QUALMS ABOUT
THE PROSPECT...

FILE CLOSED

THE ORDER
CONSIDERS THESE
MEMORIES
INSIGNIFICANT.

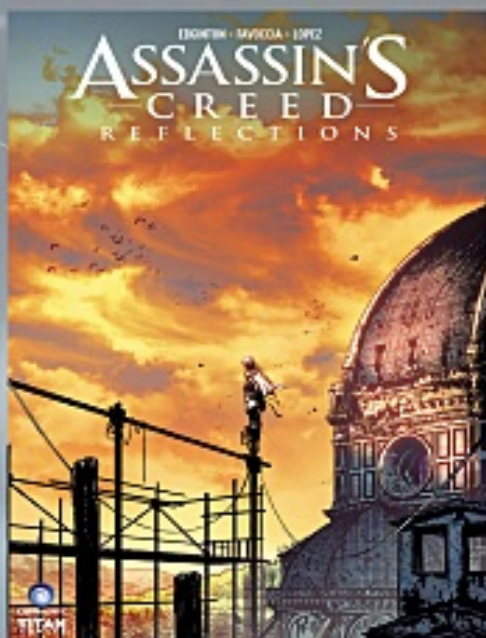
BUT HISTORY IS AN
ARSENAL JUST LIKE ANY
OTHER. SOMETIMES,
THE GREATEST VALUE
CAN BE FOUND WHERE
YOU LEAST EXPECT IT.

YOU JUST NEED
TO KNOW WHAT
TO LOOK FOR.

TO BE CONTINUED...



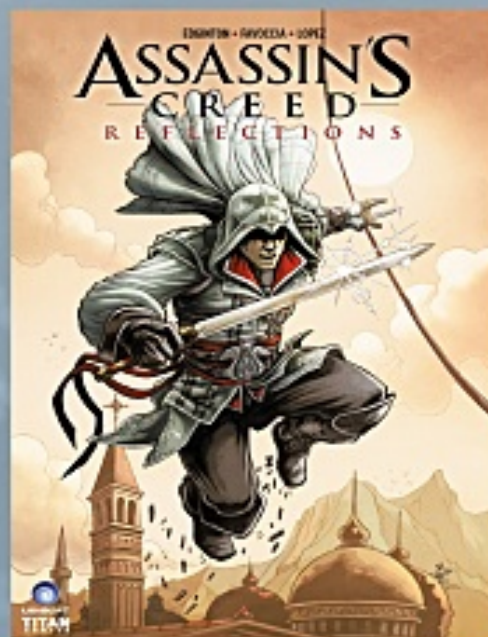
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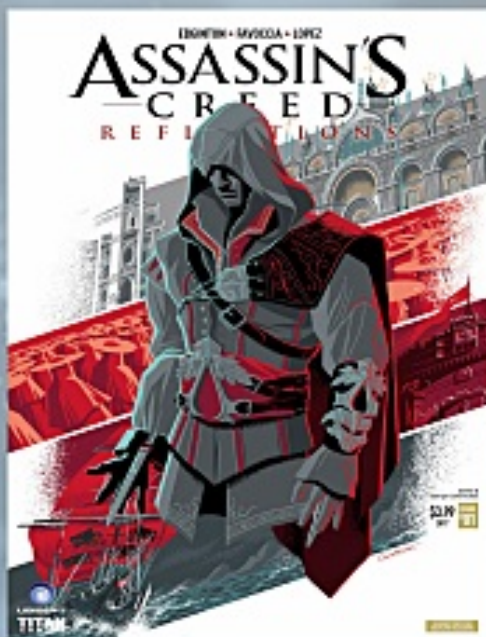
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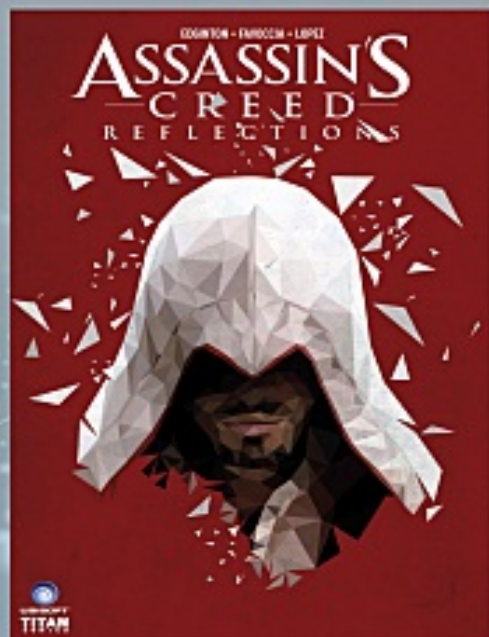
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D / Nacho Arranz & Carlos Lopez



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REFLECTIONS

< WRITER >
< IAN EDGINTON >

< ARTIST >
< VALERIA FAVOCCIA >

< COLORIST >
< CARLOS LOPEZ >

< LETTERER >
< TOM WILLIAMS >

< SENIOR EDITOR >
< ANDREW JAMES >

< EDITOR >
< TOM WILLIAMS >

< SENIOR DESIGNER >
< ANDREW LEUNG >



A / Sunetagan



B / Massimiliano Vetrini



C / Valeria Favoccia



D / Nacho Aranz



E / George Callicaudas



F / Andrew Leung

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PRODUCTION CONTROLLER
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Darryl Tothill
PUBLISHING DIRECTOR
Chris Teather
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
Leigh Baulch
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Vivian Cheung
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Nick Landau

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